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Leahy takes over as commander of Wright-Site

by 2nd Lt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Col. Michael Leahy, Air Force Research Laboratory Detachment 1 commander, took command July 18, at Kenny Hall in the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Maj. Gen. Paul D. Nielsen, AFRL commander, presided over the ceremony.

“It is my privilege and honor to have the responsibility to command some of the finest knowledge warriors in the world,” Leahy said.

The Detachment 1/Wright Research Site commander is responsible for taking care of the military personnel within AFRL, ensuring order and discipline. Along with the responsibilities of the Detachment 1 commander position, Leahy is also the Materiel Group Director of the Air Vehicles Directorate.

Leahy was commissioned in 1980, after earning his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N.J. He also holds a master’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M., and a doctorate in electrical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

This is his third tour with AFRL. Leahy also served as an associate professor at AFIT, led the Air Force Material Command Robotics and Automation Center of Excellence, and served as the joint Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency/ U.S. Air Force Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle program director.

Col. Thomas Thacker, former AFRL Detachment 1 commander, relinquished command after serving one year in the position.

Thacker will continue his career at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the Aeronautical Systems Center, where he will work acquisitions in the C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) field. @



Col. Michael Leahy